Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25 Number 6 *July 2008*

2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

A Youth Perspective

by Emily Buettemeier, Cross of Christ, Bellevue

PROCESSED
JUL 22 2008
GTU LIBRARY

On Saturday, May 17, most of my classmates were getting their hair and nails done in preparation for prom; while I was listening to synod voting members speak in favor and in opposition of various resolutions. My being at the assembly should come as no surprise though, since I attended my first church council meeting when I was just three weeks old.

More than 400 people attended worship at The First Presbyterian Church of Everett. Bishop Chris Boerger gave the sermon.

The work of the assembly consists of three major tasks: worship, listening to presentations by ELCA representatives and discussion of and voting on resolutions. This year's theme was: ***God's Work. Our Hands.***

Bishop Chris Boerger presented some rather embarrassing statistics on how our synod stacks up against the rest of the country. While

continued on page 8

In This Issue–Highlights

Page 2 ..... Fall Bishop's Convocation
Page 3 ..... A Word from The Bishop
Page 5 ..... Campus Ministry News
Page 6 ..... Bible Book of Faith Resources
Page 7 - 9 ..... Events and Workshops
Page 10 ..... State Advocate's Corner
Page 12-13 .... Within Our Family
Page 14 ..... Synod Transitions
Page 15 ..... Synod Mobility

Fall Bishop Convo

The Northwest Washington Synod Bishop's Convocation will be held Sunday, Oct. 19, through Tuesday, Oct 21, at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa in British Columbia.

This year's speaker is the Reverend Doctor Barbara Rossing from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC). She is the professor of New Testament. Ordained in 1982, she served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School.

Rossing is the author of: *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* (Basic Books, 2004), a critique of fundamentalist "Left Behind" theology; plus many other publications.

Cost is $310 double occupancy; $510 single occupancy; $620 for couples. Registration deadline is September 16, 2008. Remember, a passport is required to return to the U.S.

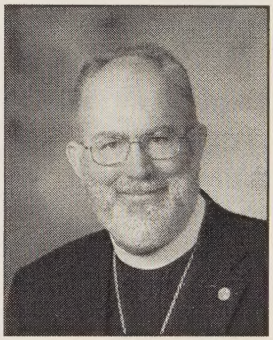
Soundings *published monthly (with one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
5519 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103-5829.
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
Email: office@lutheransnw.org. Website: www.lutheransnw.org.

Synod Office Staff:
The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org
General Office Information—office@lutheransnw.org

Deadline for the August 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, July 2. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

"To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22 NRSV

Over the Memorial Day break our new grandson, Benjamin, and his parents visited our home. DeDe and I decided to give his parents a break and took on the primary bottle feeding and comforting role during the night. Two nights of real sleep seemed like a good gift to parents of a six week old. In truth grandma did most of the work, but at 5 a.m. I was informed that my shift had begun.

I had forgotten how hard it is to stay focused on this wonder of new life. Sitting there holding a bottle for a baby that is half awake and hungry is hard work. Staying alert to the sounds of breathing and eating, to the wiggles of comfort and discomfort and to condition of the diapers is a skill that was once present, but now only is a dim memory. Those memories came back as well as the realization that I am older now than when my children were this age.

This realization renews in me the conviction that we do forget what it is like to be new to the church. Most of our congregations were founded in specific neighborhoods, often by canvassing those neighborhoods to introduce our congregations and to meet our neighbors. As we have become established, we expect that the neighbor will be like us. The truth is that we have forgotten what we were like at that stage of our faith so we do not know if they are like we were or not.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians gives numerous instructions on how life is to be lived in Christian Community. He also says that he was relationally involved with his neighbors. This is more than a casual invitation. It is getting to know and to be known by those around us.

When we invite people to be a part of our community of faith, do we expect them to change and become like us? Or do we expect to be changed because of the gift of God these new believers are to us and to the whole church? In the power of the Holy Spirit we are all changed daily. Do we expect that in our congregation?

Benjamin taught me again what new parents are able to do and are required to do. If the church is going to support young parents, we need to remember that lesson as we seek to program their lives. We, the called and appointed people of God, are to pay attention to what those around us are doing, thinking and feeling so that God might save them and us.

A Five-Day Musical Feast

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) and Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA) will join together in offering the Minnesota Lutherhostel, a five-day musical feast, at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, July 16-20, 2008.

Dr. Carl F. Schalk, Distinguished Professor of Church Music Emeritus at Concordia University, Chicago, and popular Lutheran composer will present, *Singing the Church's Song*. He will lead this three-part workshop exploring the music of the liturgy, the church's hymnody and the music of the choir. Morning devotions will be led by Rev. Fred Hinz, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gaylord, MN. Each day ends with a Concert and Evening Prayer where we join the LSM faculty and students.

Other program offerings will highlight presentations about the process of turning corn into fuel, birds of Minnesota, and the opening of Minnesota territory to settlers. Phyllis Duesenberg will take us on a journey from her birthplace in India to how and why she developed her deep love for Bach.

For more information about this event or location of other ALOA Lutherhostels, visit www.ALOAserves.org or call Walt Schmidt at 623-937-8835. (waltlois@cox.net)

Proposals Accepted Monday, Sept. 1, through Friday, Oct. 31

Health and Hope Grant Proposals

Wheat Ridge Ministries invites and encourages Lutheran congregations to submit applications from Monday, Sept. 1, 2008 through Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 for its Congregation Health and Hope Grant program. In 2007, 19 grants were awarded totaling $35,119.

All Lutheran congregations – individually or in partnership with other congregations – are eligible for these grants. The maximum amount per grant is $2,000 for a single congregation and $6,000 for collaborative efforts involving two or more congregations. The amount granted by Wheat Ridge must be matched dollar for dollar by the congregation. Approximately 20 grants will be awarded to congregational projects in December.

The focus of the Health and Hope Grant is on new congregation-based health ministries developed under the auspices of a congregation health committee or cabinet. Projects must support and promote the health and well-being of people in the congregation and local community.

Congregations interested in applying for a Wheat Ridge Congregation Health and Hope Grant can visit the Wheat Ridge website (www.wheatridge.org) to download a complete list of guidelines as well as the proposal format. For questions, contact 1-800-762-6748.

Campus Ministry News

by Rev. Chris Berry

Lutheran Campus Ministry, Shalom Center, Western Washington University, Bellingham

revrefcdberry @comcast.net

Thank you

Thank you so much for the support you showed for campus ministry and the Shalom Center Buy-Out capital campaign through your offerings at the Synod Assembly. Due to your incredible generosity, the yearly buy-out payment to our former partners has been met. For your prayers and continued financial support we give thanks to God.

Pastor Postlewait and I stand ready and available – usually along with some of our students – to join you in your congregation for pulpit supply, adult forums, special education events or simply the chance to interpret the ministry we all share together on our university campuses. We look forward to hearing from you.

College Bound

It's that time of year to start connecting your graduating high school seniors with Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Please take a moment to fill out the referral form you received in the mail from Campus Ministry, and also to talk with your students about Lutheran Campus Ministry (you can access the form on our website: www.uwlutherans.com). Please refer **all** college bound students. When you send your forms to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the UW, and we'll forward your referrals to each Lutheran Campus Ministry site or Partnership Congregation for you. Please send the information to: Rev. Scott Postlewait, UW Lutheran Campus Ministry, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105; email to chscott@drizzle.com. Thanks so much for your support and for your care of young adults in your congregation.

Team Russia Auction A Success

by Eva Mader,

Member Of Grace Lutheran in Bellevue

Members of Team Russia are deeply grateful to the 120 people who attended the auction held on May 4. We do not say this lightly because we are fully aware that those who attended came from partnered congregations, with a smattering of personal friends. This means that you were being doubly generous by not only thinking of your partner, but also of the larger church.

The auction was an event to raise awareness and interest from among the many non-partnered congregations in our synod, so that those who might not choose to engage in a more direct, personal relationship could still show interest in our synod's global mission effort, considering that Russia and Ethiopia are our synod's companion synods.

Thank you. We raised about $20,000 which will be gratefully received by the European Russia Synod (ELCER) to help support its itinerant pastors. And, ELCER will receive additional funds from the offering taken at the 2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly.

Order Form

Bible Book of Faith Resource Book

Editor's Note:
Please copy this page or remove it from the newsletter and mail it to: Roger Anderson , 911 9th Street, Mukilteo, WA 98275. Thank you.

The Lay Theological Education Task Force is offering all congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod resources promoting use and knowledge of the Bible. These Augsburg Fortress resources complement the Book of Faith Initiative and are available at no cost to you. We only ask that your congregation agree to participate in the Bible Book of Faith Initiative. It is understood that by placing this order, your congregation agrees to participate in the Bible Book of Faith initiative. (For more information read the resolution passed at the recent synod assembly at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008/assembly/J.pdf; or visit www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/The-Bible/Book-of-Faith.aspx.)

Name of Congregation_____
Location of Congregation_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____
Leader or Contact Person_____
Address_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

Please indicate which of these titles are needed in your congregation:

___John Drane—*Introducing the Bible* (with CD)

___Don Benjamin—*The Old Testament Story: An Introduction* (with CD)

___Gerd Theissen—*Fortress Introduction to the New Testament*

___Terrance E. Fretheim—*About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*

___Craig R. Koester—*Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible*

___Rolf E. Aaseng—*A Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible*

___Diane L. Jacobson & Robt. Kysar—*A Beginner's Guide to the Book of Books*

___Gerd Theissen—*The Bible and Contemporary Culture*

The hope is that all churches in the Northwest Washington Synod will use and make available these resources in their congregations. To order, please return this form by Tuesday, Sept. 30, to Roger Anderson, 911 9th St. Mukilteo, WA 98275. For questions email rwander48@comcast.net

The Future of Ministry: Adaptation or Extinction

The Future of Ministry: Adaptation or Extinction event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; and on Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a banquet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will be held at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Speakers are: Dr. Michael Kerr, Director of the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington D.C.; and Prof. John Haught, Senior Fellow, Science & Religion, Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University.

Registration costs are: $20 - Thursday evening presentation with Dr. Michael E. Kerr; $95 - Friday Symposium with Kerr and Prof. John Haught; $60 – Student Rate; and $35 - Friday evening banquet.

Registration will be available at: www.plu.edu/!crel. Full details are available now at: www.lutheransnw.org/calendar.

The event is sponsored by Consultation to Clergy and Pacific Lutheran University.

Counting The Homeless

Since 1980, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) and other nonprofit and government partners have conducted the annual One Night Count throughout King County in order to establish the actual number of homeless individuals and families who are sleeping unsheltered. On the same night, the King County Department of Community Services coordinates a survey of all homeless people using shelters and transitional housing. On January 25, volunteers walked areas of Seattle, Kent, North King County, East King County, White Center, Federal Way, Renton, night owl Metro buses, and Auburn. Volunteers were looking for people who were trying to survive the outside without shelter.

A total of 2,631 people were witnessed outside between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m. This number represents a 15% increase when comparing similar areas that were counted in 2007.

An Investment Opportunity

By Margie Fiedler

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA is offering a special 4.68% APY on an 18-month MissionTermSelect investment. Only new funds are eligible for this special rate; minimum investment is $2,500. Investments can be purchased by congregations and their members, and ELCA-related ministries.

Your investment provides vital funds to help MIF make loans to ministries for building projects and land purchases. This special offer is available only through Monday, June 30.

Visit www.missioninvestmentfund.org to purchase an investment, or contact me.

margie.fiedler@elca.org
208-664-7973
www.
missioninvestmentfund.org

continued from page 1

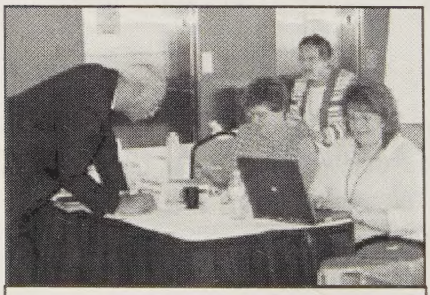
A Youth Perspective

the sad news is that the majority of the people in the Pacific Northwest consider themselves spiritual, but not religious, and that church membership is actually declining, the exciting news is that new ministries are forming. Though I am a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran in Bellevue, I also enjoy attending worship at COTA (Church of the Apostles in Seattle), one of the new forming ministries.

(left to right) The Reverends Norris Swenson, Chauncey Christofferson and Emerson Vedell were among eight pastors recognized for their 50 years of service in ordained ministry. Also recognized were rostered clergy celebrating 25, 35, 60 and 65 years of ordained ministry. Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, congratulates the pastors.

There were many presentations; all related to the theme. These included presentations about Team Russia, the Ethiopian Companion Synod Committees, Luther's Table and the Compass Center. As a high school junior, I found those relating directly to mission projects most interesting, as I myself am traveling to Tanzania this summer with my own church to do mission work.

Having attended the 2007 Synod Assembly, I was amazed that of the 13 resolutions and amendments that were submitted, only two were not addressed. Of the 11 that were voted on, ten were passed and only one was tabled. Although I am not always an outspoken person, and do not often choose to voice my opinion by getting up to speak on the resolutions, I do enjoy listening to others and voting. I was amazed that we got through as many of the resolutions as we did, which included some very controversial ones, such as "A memorial on the Blessing of Same-Gender Couples' Promises of Lifelong Fidelity." Overall, of these three major tasks of the assembly, I enjoyed the presentations the most.



Rev. Vic Langford, Saint Mark's Lutheran in Seattle, registers with registrar Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry; and with volunteers Cheryl Wolff and Janet Rucker.

continued page 9

The Spirit

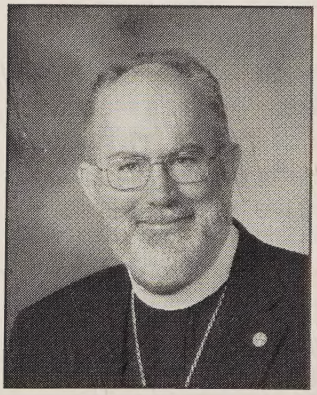
Volume 25, Number 6

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

July 2008

Being A Part Of The Political Debate

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



The political season is warming up again. It is increasingly more difficult to tell when we are in the middle of political campaigns and when we are between campaigns. With the reality of a 24-hour news cycle it seems that we are in continual campaign mode. However you view the coming elections, I want to encourage you to be a part of the process in making decisions for this nation and the world. The ELCA has a wonderful publication online that details what church can and cannot do when it comes to political activity. It is available at http://archive.

Bishop Hanson also challenged the 65 Synod Bishops to be a part of this effort. In response, the Conference of Bishops has established five *Ready Benches* made up of Bishops who are paying attention to certain topics and who are looking at what the social statements of the church are related to their topics. I have agreed to serve on the Environmental Ready Bench and also the International Ready Bench. The other topics with ready benches are Domestic policy, Middle East policy and Immigration policy.

I am most focused on the environmental question. My understanding of our scriptural tradition is that we have been created in the image of God to steward God's good creation. When we overstep our call to steward and become owners, creation suffers. Much of our current debate is about how we will decide

2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

A Youth Perspective

by Emily Buettemeier, Member Of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bellevue

On Saturday, May 17, most of my classmates were getting their hair and nails done in preparation for prom; while I was listening to synod voting members speak in favor and in opposition of various resolutions. My being at the assembly should come as no surprise though, since I attended my first church council meeting when I was just three weeks old.

(l to r) Campus pastors Chris Berry, Western Washington University in Bellingham, and Scott Postlewait, University of Washington in Seattle, at the assembly.

The work of the assembly consists of three major tasks: worship, listening to presentations by ELCA representatives and discussion of and voting on resolutions. This year's theme was: ***God's Work. Our Hands***.

Bishop Chris Boerger presented some rather embarrassing statistics on how our synod stacks up against the rest of the country. While the sad news is that the majority of the people in the Pacific Northwest consider themselves spiritual, but not religious, and that church membership is actually declining, the exciting news is that new

not often choose to voice my opinion by getting up to speak on the resolutions, I do enjoy listening to others and voting. I was amazed that we got through as many of the resolutions as we did, which included some very controversial ones, such as "A memorial on the Blessing of Same-Gender Couples' Promises of Lifelong Fidelity." Overall, of these three major tasks of the assembly, I enjoyed the presentations the most.

One unexpected perk that comes with going to the assembly is not only getting to hear from campus pastors of colleges and universities that I am thinking about attending, but getting all the freebies that they hand out. By attending the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, you can impact the future and direction of the Lutheran Church.

Editor's Note: For the resolution, election results and photos please visit www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008.

ministries.

There were many presentations; all related to the theme. These included presentations about Team Russia, the Ethiopian Companion Synod Committees, Luther's Table and the Compass Center. As a high school junior, I found those relating directly to mission projects most interesting, as I myself am traveling to Tanzania this summer with my own church to do mission work.

Having attended the 2007 Synod Assembly, I was amazed that of the 13 resolutions and amendments that were submitted, only two were not addressed. Of the 11 that were voted on, ten were passed and only one was tabled. Although I am not always an outspoken person, and do

of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA
5519 Phinney Ave North
Seattle, WA 98103-5829
Telephone: 206-783-9292
Toll Free: 1-800-244-6997
Fax: 206-783-9833
Email: office@lutheransnw.org

Editor: Margit Peiffle
Email: margit@lutheransnw.org
Telephone: 425-299-6667
Website: www.lutheransnw.org

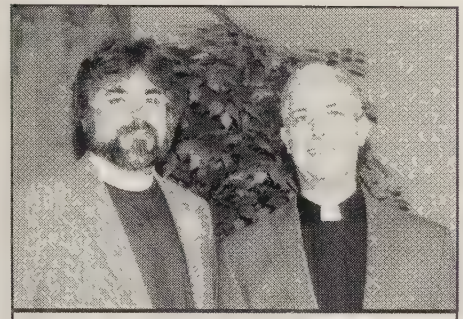
Information for the August 2008 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, July 2.

Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, has raised the vision of the *public church* for us in new ways. Dr. Cynthia Moe Lobeda, a member of University Lutheran Church in Seattle, has written an excellent volume in the Augsburg Fortress *Lutheran Voices* series by the same title *Public Church, For The Life Of The World*. Rev. Paul Benz, Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington Director, stands ready to help you in deciding how to be a public church. (Visit www.lppowa.org.)

to the current debate.

I invite you to find those areas of interest that are part of the public debate. We will not all be on the same topic or even have the same point of view. We are called to enter the debate as part of God's calling to us to care for the creation and for the neighbor. So, the debate continues. It has been going on since creation and our being a part of it is part of God's calling of us to serve as God's people.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters have left indelible marks on communities and people in the past few weeks. The ELCA is responding. In addition to prayers, consider giving to support the long-term response through Lutheran Disaster Relief. Gifts designated for a specific disaster, for example "Flooding - United States", will be used in full (100%) for that disasters. Visit www.elca.org/disaster or www.ldr.org for more information.



(left to right) Campus pastors Chris Berry, Western Washington University in Bellingham, and Scott Postlewait, University of Washington in Seattle, at the assembly.

continued from page 8

A Youth Perspective

One unexpected perk that comes with going to the assembly is not only getting to hear from campus pastors of colleges and universities that I am thinking about attending, but getting all the freebies that they hand out. By attending the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, you can impact the future and direction of the Lutheran Church.

Editor's Note: For the resolution, election results please visit www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008. At that site you will also find additional information including the daily newsletters and photos.

A Unique Approach To Service

In 1985, a group of members of Central Lutheran in Seattle began providing nutritious meals to low-income senior citizens in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. The congregation formed the outreach called Community Lunch on Capital Hill.

Members decided that those served would be treated as guests to encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect and hospitality. Guests are welcomed at the door and encouraged to help themselves to seconds and thirds, more like home than an impersonal soup kitchen. They dine on porcelain plates with silverware, sit at tables with table cloths and centerpieces.

The Community Lunch on Capital Hill has grown substantially from that first lunch when nine guests were served. Today they host about 175 low-income adults, youth, seniors, and families at each meal. And the almost 1,000 yearly volunteers are from faith-based organizations, businesses, civic groups, and student groups. Groups from businesses like Microsoft and University Fitness participate in coordination with their giving campaigns.

Lunch is served from noon until 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday.

CLCH became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2004. We now host providers such as Street Outreach Services and Country Doctor to better meet the needs of our guests. And we continue to look for even more ways to help. For more information about this program, please visit www.communitylunch.org.

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul Benz

Lutheran Public Policy
Office of Washington State

pbenz@lcsnw.org

206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

Greetings Advocates. As this reaches you it will be late May or early June and I would like to offer up some advocacy resources/ideas for your fall congregational planning.

- Voter Registration & Education: We urge churches to set up voter registration tables on Sunday mornings and at other church and community events. Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) can assist in helping with this as a part of our faithful citizenship effort. LPPO can also help provide voting report cards of state and federal elected officials on key issues of importance to the Church.
- Biblical & Theological Basis for Advocacy: LPPO is coordinating forums in the fall with resources from LPPO, Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and the School of Theology & Ministry at Seattle University. Contact us if you are interested in hosting an event.
- Called to be a Public Church: This is a recently published 2008 ELCA voting and civic participation guide for congregations. LPPO can mail you a hard copy or you can download it at www.elca.org/advocacy. This document has excellent 'do's & don'ts' for congregations, non-partisan get out the vote efforts, and great issue briefs related to our ELCA social policy.
- Meet NOW with your state & federal elected officials: To make a greater impact on the issues you and others at your church feel strongly about now is the time to set up a meeting with your local state legislators and or your congressional representative. This is a great way to build a relationship from the faith community with your local elected official. LPPO is very willing to help you set this up.
- Invite LPPO to your congregation/community: LPPO wants to be work with your congregation (and other denominations in your locale) to either begin a conversation about advocacy and the intersection of 'faith & the political arena', or work with you and others in your community to deepen your church's commitment to be an advocating congregation and your church's public and prophetic voice.

Finance Volunteers Needed

The Synod's Finance Committee is in need of volunteers to sit on the committee, especially clergy. Please contact Wayne Daley at daleydesign@seanet.com. The committee meets bi-monthly at 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month (two weeks prior to the Synod Council meeting) at St. John United, Seattle.

News and Notes

- **The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee** met on May 1 to consider 17 requests for grants totaling $44,415. Each request was given thoughtful consideration with regard to the manner in which the request fit the stipulations and intent of the Gloria Dei Fund. Ten of the applications were approved and a total of $25,415 in grant money was awarded. The Committee will meet again in October for consideration of new grant requests. Watch future editions of Soundings for a revised grant application and application deadlines.
- **ELCA Web Site Changes**—The new ELCA website was rolled out this spring. The new site will not be fully complete until later in 2008, which means new content will continue to appear as it is developed. For the rest of 2008 at least, the "older" content that has not yet been transferred to the new site will continue to appear at an archived location. The "older content" can be accessed by going to archives.
- Thank you to everyone who attended or made a donation to **LPPO's 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction**. The evening was a great success with over $34,000 raised in support of the advocacy ministry of the ELCA in our state. Attendees celebrated the work of LPPO, learned about the importance of advocacy in improving the farm-to-food process, and enjoyed a meal featuring local produce and poultry.
- A kid's version of the Stephen Schwartz musical, Godspell, was presented at **Bethany Lutheran, Bainbridge Island,** in mid-May. The Bethany production featured a cast of 16 local youth, ranging in ages from six to 17. The production is part of Bethany's Youth Music and Drama program, which is open to community youth.
- **Rev. Ronald F. Marshall, First Lutheran Church of West Seattle,** has just had a video interview posted on the internet ("Learn About the Koran -- From a Lutheran Pastor," May 25, 2008, westseattleblog.com). The topic in the interview was about how he read straight through the Koran in four weeks. He has been teaching this class, "Learn About the Koran" four times a year since 2003.
- The Compass Center will hold a **Dine Out for Dignity** event on Wednesday, Sept. 17. On this night you can enjoy a dinner at a number of area restaurants. These businesses will donate a portion of the sales that night to The Compass Center. Check the website for participating restaurants.
- In April **Advent Lutheran Church in Mill Creek** dedicated, with a special worship service, their new sanctuary and education wing.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, 1-800-244-6997 (toll free). This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

We continue to hold in our prayers:

† **Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry**
† **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
† **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson**
† **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
† **The Rev. Roger Patrow (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† **Boots Winterstein,** retired North Puget Sound Area Director of Lutheran Community Services, Northwest, underwent surgery in June for breast cancer. It will be followed by 4 weeks of radiation. Cards may be sent to: 8108 - 11th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106.

† **Dick Lee, husband of Erma Lee, Associate in Ministry (ret.)** was in the hospital with pneumonia in early May. Dick suffers from Emphysema. Cards may be sent to: 3001 NE 115th St, Seattle WA 98125.

† **Howard Boerger, father of Bishop Chris Boerger,** was hospitalized in mid-June for pneumonia on top of existing cardiac and pulmonary problems. Cards may be sent to: Northwest Washington Synod, 5519 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103.

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek,** pastor at Christ in Ferndale. He and his wife continue to recuperate from cancer. Cards may be sent to: Christ Lutheran, PO Box 845, Ferndale WA 98248.

† **The Rev. Richard Wendt (ret.)** has been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer and will discern a course of treatment. Cards may be sent to: 4713 – 78th Place SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275.

† **Annie Lohafer, wife of the Rev. Joel Lohafer,** pastor at Hope in Lynden, continues to heal from orthoscopic knee surgery. Cards may be sent to: Hope Lutheran Church, 900 E Grover St, Lynden WA 98264-1628.

† Prayers for the family of **Kaia Sappington, wife of the Rev. Will Sappington,** pastor at Sammamish Hills in Sammamish. Kaia's grandfather died in April. The Sappington family travelled to Northern Minnesota for the funeral.

† **Ruth Darrah, widow of Pastor John Darrah,** died on June 15. A memorial service was held on June 21 at Gethsemane Lutheran, Seattle. Peace to her memory.

continued on page 13

continued from page 12

Within Our Family

† Roger Anderson, the father of the **Rev. Kathleen Anderson,** pastor at Holy Trinity on Mercer Island, and Kathleen's brother, Dr. Roger Anderson. Roger died on April 28. (Kathleen's husband is the **Rev. Bob Lewis**, pastor at Nativity in Renton, and Dr. Roger Anderson's wife is **Arletta Anderson, Associate in Ministry,** Queen Anne Lutheran in Seattle.) Cards may be sent to: Kathleen Anderson and Bob Lewis, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 8501 SE 40th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040-3625; and Roger and Arletta Anderson, Queen Anne Lutheran Church, 2044 8th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119-2517.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

† **The Rev. Jim Schoeld and his wife, Rachel,** on the birth of their grand daughter, Sabina May. Sabina was born in June to Susan (Jim and Rachel's daughter) and her husband Steven.

† **Bishop Chris Boerger** baptized his new grandson Benjamin James Casely on June 15 at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor.

Let Justice Roll

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran College, Holden Village, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Public Policy Office and Earth Ministry.

Let Justice Roll will be held Saturday, Oct. 11 through Monday, Oct. 13, at Holden Village. This year's theme is: *Practicing our Faith in the Salmon Nation.*

The *Salmon Nation* is a project developed by the EcoTrust in Portland, Oregon. It is a creative project that seeks to bring people together to think about the interconnectedness of life, specifically in the Pacific Northwest.

Practicing our Faith in the Salmon Nation is a project that was convened by Dr. Patricia Killen and Dr. Samuel Torvend of Pacific Lutheran University. They gathered eight ELCA clergy to talk about the ways life in the Pacific Northwest shapes our lives in the Christian faith.

Using this theme at the *Let Justice Roll* event will provide presentations sparking lively conversations around the practices of sustainability, relationships and creation. Sustainability is meant in this context to include relationships between the environment, communities, businesses, people, friends, neighbors and healthy care of self.

This annual event is intended to reach high school students interested in social, economic, political, and environmental justice issues. The event is not designed like the Holden Youth Weekends for participation from large youth groups. Its unique focus is meant to feed, support, and stimulate those young people who have a special interest in the issues of peace, justice, and care of creation. Because of the fall date, space is limited, so we encourage you to limit your group to no more that 5 participants.

Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality released the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* on March 13 for study and response. Responses to the draft social statement are due by Nov. 1, 2008.

Most of the ELCA's 65 synods plan to host hearings between March and November as an opportunity to discuss the draft social statement. Our synod will host a joint hearing with Southwestern Washington Synod on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Grace Lutheran in Des Moines. At least one representative of the task force is to attend each hearing. You are also encouraged to submit your responses directly to the task force. (http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws3.pl?FORM=ResponseForm.)

Based on the responses from the church the task force will revise and prepare a proposed social statement, which is due in early 2009. The proposed social statement will be given to the ELCA Church Council for its consideration and with a request to place the document on the agenda of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for action. For more information about the call to study and dialogue about human sexuality visit www.elca.org/faithfuljourney.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
April L. Boyden, Associate in Ministry	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	6/11/2008
Kemp Segerhammer	Sierra Pacific Synod	7/1/2008
Jianhong Rowena Wang	St. Matthew, Renton	6/22/2008
Mike Guoyi Wang	St. Matthew, Renton	6/22/2008
Installations		
April L Boyden, Associate in Ministry	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	6/15/2008
Kathleen MaCallum Sachse	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	4/6/2008
Ordinations/Commissionings/Consecrations		
Jianhong Rowena Wang	St. Matthew, Renton	6/22/2008
Mike Guoyi Wang	St. Matthew, Renton	6/22/2008
Retirements		
Carl Gabrielson	Our Saviour, Arlington	7/1/2008
Randy Grauer	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	10/1/2008
Stanley Jacobson	Immanuel, Everson	6/1/2008
Mark Johnson	First Evangelical, Mount Vernon	9/1/2008
Lowell Stime	Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah	8/1/2008
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
April Boyden, Associate in Ministry	Southestern Texas Synod	6/1/2008
Robert C. Elliott	Oregon Synod	6/18/2008
Kemp Segerhammer	Sierra Pacific Synod	7/1/2008

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions can be found on page 9

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	NV	Andrew Yee, Co-Pastor; Dennis Schaffert, Interim Co-Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	TR	Michael Ross, Pastor; Dorcas Wang, Interim
Everett, Trinity	PR	C	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Everson, Immanuel	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	I	Neil Snider, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	P	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, Salem	A/SP	TR	Kevin Forquer, Pastor
North Bend, Mount Si	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Seatac, Prince of Peace	A	C	Conrad Tollefson, Pastor
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Faith	A/SP	I	Nancy Winder, Pastor
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Artist Call

Faith Lutheran in Seattle seeks an artist to create a site-specific sculptural artwork on a sanctuary wall in its church building. The artist will receive a commission of $10,000 inclusive of all costs to design, fabricate and install the work. Application deadline is Sept 19, 2008.

www.faithseattle.org
206-523-9636

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5299

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1337
Seattle, WA

Return Service Requested

Soundings
July 2008

Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Rd
Berkley CA 94709-1212